

America's Arctic Paratroopers

1-501 GERONIMO

NEWS

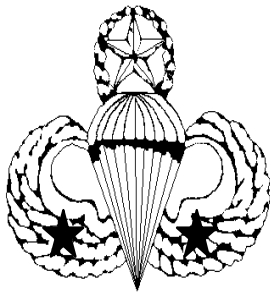
Fort Richardson, Alaska

Contains Official Information

September, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE BN COMMANDER

As we complete the second year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country, the Geronimos are preparing to take part in the Global War on Terrorism. Today, your soldiers are preparing themselves, their weapons and their vehicles, to deploy to Afghanistan and conduct combat operations against Taliban and Al Queda Forces. Your husbands and wives are fully prepared to fight and win.



Just as we prepare this great Task Force to deploy, we must spend an appropriate amount of time to ensure our families are fully prepared to cope with our absence. It is essential that families sit down and discuss critical information regarding finances, wills and powers of attorney, how the house and car will be prepared for winter, how snow will be removed, and numerous other important activities that will occur when a primary household member deploys. Your ability to solve these issues prior to deployment directly impacts on our ability to accomplish assigned missions in combat.

Afghanistan is a dangerous and austere environment. Amenities are few to include very few phone lines, dedicated computer lines, or other means of communication back to the United States. We will be unable to make daily phone calls back home. Standard mail will be our primary means of communication. Most soldiers should be able to make monthly phone calls and email. We will use every means possible to keep you informed on how things are going through newsletters, newspaper articles, and the Geronimo Web Page. Stay connected with your Family Readiness Group!

With back to back deployments to Fort Knox and then to Afghanistan, I know it has been tough on our families. I appreciate each and every individuals sacrifice as we continue this war on terrorism. Thank you all for each and every thing you do.

HARRY C. GLENN, III
LTC, IN
Commanding

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Hatchet Company

Hello from Hatchet Country,

We have definitely been busy since the last newsletter. While deployed to Fort Knox, we received orders to deploy to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. This cut our Fort Knox deployment short and allowed the troopers to return to Alaska several weeks early. The troopers enjoyed the long Labor Day weekend with their families and friends and then back to work at pre-deployment pace. Hatchet has been keeping busy preparing our vehicles and equipment for the mission at hand. We were able to take some time out to attend the Welcome Home Hoopla at Cotton Wood Park. We appreciate the community coming together to welcome us back.

September will be filled with a variety of activities to prepare for the deployment. The troopers of Hatchet Company will do everything from convoying hundreds of vehicles to the Port of Anchorage to medical and personnel records screening to ranges and conducting airborne operations. We will get to take about a week and a half of leave at the beginning of October, some much deserved time to spend with family and friends. When we get back from leave, we will receive more equipment to take with us on the deployment. We will fill our days checking and rechecking our gear to make sure we have everything we will need and that all our equipment is in the best possible condition.

Of course Hatchet Company paratroopers will miss their families and loved ones, but we look forward to showing what tough, determined, well trained United States Paratroopers can do.

Geronimo!

Hatchet 6

Apache Company

It's great to be back at Fort Rich after a long, hot summer at Fort Knox, if only for a short time. I never cease to be amazed at the rugged beauty of this great state, especially with the changing fall colors. It won't be long until termination dust appears, signaling an end to the summer.

Apache Company finished the deployment to Fort Knox in fine fashion, as is always the case. We completed the Battalion Intensive Training Cycle, the highlight of the deployment, and all would agree that it was the best training we've done in a while. We capitalized on a great opportunity to train in the premier MOUT site in the Army and sharpened our skills on all weapons and demolitions. We did this prior to notification of our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, but the training we did could not have been more timely. With a recent NTC rotation under our belt, combined with the training we did in Zussman Village, we are well prepared for the road ahead. We finished the Stryker Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation in fine form as well, and left Fort Knox with an outstanding reputation as an aggressive, disciplined organization.

With Fort Knox and the summer behind us, it is now time to turn our attention to our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. We're already receiving new equipment and have much more on the way. We'll be focusing our efforts over the next few weeks on getting our weapons and equipment in the best shape possible, sharpening our marksmanship skills, conducting team and squad live fire exercises, and doing theater specific training. We will be busy, but my intent is also to maximize time for soldiers to spend with families. My request for the

families of Apache Company is to prepare now for the upcoming separation. Ensure wills and powers of attorney are made and make a plan for snow removal, vehicle maintenance, and tax preparation. Most importantly, make the most of the available family time before we deploy. I encourage everyone to get involved in the Family Readiness Group and take advantage of this tremendous resource for support during deployment.

DEPARTURES

We recently bid farewell to some long time Apaches who have contributed immensely to the team. SSG Delacruz, SSG Pope, SPC Dickson, SPC Jensen, and PFC Soto departed this summer. SSG Aaron, SGT Belter, SPC Fernandez, SPC Siedleman, SPC Trevino, and SPC Dooley will also be leaving soon. We wish all of these fine soldiers the best of luck in future endeavors.

ARRIVALS

I would personally like to extend a warm welcome to all the new soldiers and families in the company. In HQ, we welcome a new Mortar Section Sergeant, SSG Spahl, and in 2nd PLT, we welcome SSG Reinhardt, PVT Mitchell, and PVT Ingram. We are glad to have these additions to the Apache Team.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to all Apaches who were recently promoted. They include PFC Manwiller, PFC Flowers, and SGT Malo

SCHOOLS

Although we missed them at Ft. Knox this summer, we congratulate SSG Posey and SSG

Hiura for graduating BNCO. SSG Ralston and SSG Van Dyke also completed this important school but were lucky enough to join us at Knox and make their presence felt. We also have two new "Kung Fu" fighters in the company. SGT Button and SPC Meyers completed Levels I and II of the combatives course and we are looking forward to the skills they will bring to the company.

OTHER KUDOS

We would also like to congratulate SPC James and his wife on the birth of their baby girl, Alexandria, the Landowskis on the birth of their girl, Ilia, and the Johnston family on the birth of their son, Nicholas.

Once again, I'd like to thank the families of Apache Company for your support while we have been deployed. I don't thank you enough, but your help and prayers are vital to what we do every day.

APACHE!
AIRBORNE!
CPT Anthony R. Gibbs

Blackfoot Company

Everyone in Blackfoot Company is happy to be back home in Alaska after two and a half months at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. We did extremely well at Knox, fighting the new Stryker Brigade to a standstill in numerous engagements. We also had the opportunity to shoot several ranges to improve our weapon proficiency, including firing shoulder rockets. All training was conducted with an emphasis on safety, but we did have one injury during the course of our training. PFC Mainez sustained a heat stroke while conducting routine PT and has been hospitalized for two weeks. He is expected to make a full recovery and to return to Alaska soon. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and feel free to offer them assistance if they require it upon their return.

The next weeks prior to deployment will be busy for most soldiers. We have a lot to accomplish to ensure that we are as prepared as possible for our next mission. There will be a lot of information available for family members during this time. Pay attention to announcements for Family Readiness Group (FRG) meetings, Army Community Service (ACS) events, and distribution of Family Readiness handbooks. Janelle Roberts and Kim Powell are the company FRG leaders. Feel free to contact them at any time if you have any question or if you would like to participate in the company FRG.

Enjoy the end of summer and do not forget to prepare for winter!

Newcomers:

Blackfoot has added two new soldiers to our roster in the last month. In Headquarters, SGT Schmidt is our new mortar NCO coming from the mortar platoon in HHC and in 1st Platoon- SPC Baker also transferred from HHC.

Promotions:

Many Blackfoot soldiers have moved up in the ranks recently. SSG Farris has been selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class, SGTs Bogardus and Schmidt are now Staff Sergeants and SPC Gilbert and Jennings have recently joined the NCO Corps as Sergeants. Other promoted soldiers are SPC Bailey, Alexander, Meadows, Rios, Mercado, Glenn and Austin, PFC Ramos, Simms, McClure and Corel, and PV2 Jimenez. Congratulations to all!

Awards and Schools:

SGT Schmidt in the mortar section earned the title of Distinguished Honor Graduate at the Infantry Mortar Leader's Course at Ft. Benning, proving his proficiency at his new job. SSG Fox graduated from BNCOC, SSG Schmidt and SGT Stenberg graduated the grapppler's course, and 1LT Roberts graduated from the jumpmaster school. These newly acquired skills will be extremely useful to the unit in future operations. Also, the Blackfoot racing team of SPC Leslie, SGT Stenberg, PFC Cheney, and 1LT Roberts took first place in the annual Arctic Valley 12.6 Mile Run which begins at the Moose Run golf course and goes up to the Arctic Valley Ski area 2,400 feet above and back again.

Marriages and Births:

We would like to welcome our two new spouses to Blackfoot company. SPC William Alexander married Dana Sparrs on 29 August and PFC Colby Hover was married to Leslie Fritsch on the 30th. Feel free to contact and participate in the Blackfoot FRG!

Reenlistment

Congratulations to SPC Darren Leslie for choosing to reenlist! His next duty station will be Ft. Lewis, Washington.

Departures

SGT Jason Sizemore will be PCSing on 29 September. He has been with the unit for almost 3 years, beginning as a private.

Commander's Notes: Blackfoot soldiers are now part of history for the new STRYKER vehicle. They accomplished the mission of identifying strengths and weaknesses of the new system. They also have prepared that unit to go to combat, and hopefully save their lives. I am very proud of each and every paratrooper in B Co. Now Blackfoot will write a new chapter in the history of Enduring Freedom and continue to protect the American way of life.

Comanche Company

Greetings to family and friends of Comanche Company. Since the last update, the company has accomplished its mission of supporting the interoperability and testing evaluation of the Army's new infantry combat vehicle, the Stryker. Our soldiers provided the opposing force needed to test the capabilities of the vehicle and its' new systems. We spent three ten-day periods in the field playing roles as civilians, red cross workers, enemy soldiers, partisan fighters, and enemy special forces. Our success in each mission rested solely on the shoulders of young team and squad leaders. We set the standard in the execution of each mission through tireless dedication and remarkable professionalism.

While deployed to Fort Knox, Kentucky, the company received orders for a fall deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This news prompted us to quickly meet current mission requirements and return home. Our efforts are now focused on striking the balance between the training tasks specific to that mission, preparing and shipping our equipment, and spending time with families. A new determination has entered each soldier and leader. Though the price of performing our duties is paid in time away from home and loved ones, we are comforted by knowing our training has prepared us for the mission set before us.

Since July, we welcomed some new families into the company:

- SGT Ken and Jennifer Pajinag
- SGT Shane and Jamie Matthews
- PV2 John and Christina Shannon

Since the last update we have added new family members to Comanche company. SPC Abraham and Monica Garcia welcomed Brennan Abraham Diichah to their family on 21 August. We would also like to welcome Mrs. Jenna Kardos, Mrs. Sheri Reighard, Mrs. Somar Lockhart, and Mrs. Jennifer Watt. Apparently PFC Kardos, PFC Reighard, PFC Lockhart, and SPC Watt were fortunate to find a young lady willing to join them in their Army life. Good luck to all of you as you begin your lives together.

Even with a deployment to Fort Knox, we were able to free some of our soldier to attend schools. The purpose of these schools vary from leadership to mission specific skills:

BNCOC. Staff Sergeants learn the skills necessary to perform duties as squad leaders.
SSG Steven Childers

Ranger School. Soldier learn leadership skills during a rigorous 2 months of training where individuals are evaluated on their ability to lead their fellow

soldiers in various types of terrain, despite fatigue, hunger, and weather extremes.

SGT Joseph Beals

Infantry Mortar Leader's Course. NCO's learn the technical skills necessary to run a mortar section, employment of the mortar system, and computing the data needed to execute a safe fire mission.

SGT Anthony Sellars

Level I and Level II Combatives. Soldiers learn the skills and techniques necessary to act as an instructor for their fellow soldiers in hand-to-hand combatives.

SPC Abraham Garcia
SGT William Manning

Though our schedule seems compressed, we are focused on the tasks needed for success. Until our wheels have left the ground, we will continue to hone our skills, prepare our equipment, and enjoy time with our loved ones.

GERONIMO!
CPT Jason W. Condrey

Delta Company

This quarter has tested the fortitude of D Company. With the transformation process well under way, and the continued daily efforts put forth by each and every soldier to prepare for deployment, D Company has characterized both the flexibility and commitment needed to reach imminent success. True professionalism continues to abound, with every soldier lending a hand to pick up the extra duties so often created through recent curtailments and section losses.

Focus at this time must be on highlighting what needs to be accomplished to ensure deployment readiness. While many readiness factors deal with equipment and personal preparation issues, we all must remind ourselves to prepare our families and friends as well. Married soldiers and those with children must continue to make arrangements that accompany any deployment. The Soldier Readiness Packet (SRP) will help with such arrangements. Make sure legal and financial plans and documents are discussed and complete prior to deployment; inaction will simply cause undue stress to your loved ones. Above all, continue to communicate familial needs, questions, and concerns to your War Dogs chain of command so possible problems or shortcomings can be addressed in a timely manner.

The FRG committee has undergone similar transformational losses and gains. Mrs. Mee Kim Park currently heads up the company FRG committee, a committee that has recently been working very hard to ensure soldier's and their spouses receive correct and up to date information regarding unit and post level events and happenings. SGT Barnes (FRG Coordinator) attends all Battalion meetings and will disseminate all pertinent information accordingly. A company FRG meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 7th, time TBA. The FRG committee would like to stress the importance of the coming meetings in the weeks to follow. Attendance will be helpful in gaining information for both the soldier and spouse. Above all, networking with neighbors and fellow unit family members can only add to the support system infrastructure already provided here on post.

The coming weeks will continue to be stressful, busy, and filled with long duty hours. Be flexible. Remind yourselves that the hard work, dedication and preparation put forth here at Fort Richardson, Alaska, will ultimately save lives when deployed as representatives for America and the United States Army.

GERONIMO!
1LT JIN PARK
Commander

Echo Battery

Greetings, Paratroopers and Families of Eagle Battery! So much has occurred over the past month...So much to look forward to...So very much to be proud of!

The Eagle Thunder FTX (21-28 July) at the Yukon Training Area was an absolutely outstanding exercise! Observing our battery safely convoying to and from Fort Wainwright, expertly conducting a tactical drop zone mission, executing a Live Fire H-Hour in support of UH-60 Black Hawks, constructing a fire base, and live firing more than 1200 artillery rounds while producing Top-Notch results, without any injuries, was a truly remarkable feat! These unparalleled achievements clearly demonstrate the highest state of training, soldier discipline, and combat readiness of our unit. Time and time again, our battery continues to uphold our distinctive title as The World's Only Arctic Airborne Field Artillery Battery.

Welcome home, TF 1-501 PIR FIST! We all are extremely proud of your efforts and significant accomplishments. The reputation of our fire supporters preceded them during their deployment to Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Platoon's professionalism and tactical expertise proved to be a driving force behind the overall success of the Task Force. Significant training during this deployment included a Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) exercise as well as many other tactical missions. Each team performed magnificently during their rotations through the Zussman MOUT sight. 2LT Davison and SGT (P) Joslin were even featured in the post paper! Challenged and tested, the FIST platoon remains on top!

During our preparation for our deployment in support of Operation En-

during Freedom (OEF), I ask for your continued support and understanding of this critical mission. The outpouring of spouses and paratroopers to our last FRG meeting clearly displays the dedication of all married teams within our battery. Your husbands are trained and ready to make a difference in the war on terror. Continued support will ensure 100% combat readiness within this battery. Remember, a strong FRG will ensure accurate communication, and will assist all parties in problem solving. "Mission first, people always" will remain the paradigm of this command team.

Numerous events are forthcoming. Be on the look out for an upcoming hail and fare well. Looking forward to seeing all families at the 16 SEP pre-deployment brief in the post theatre.

Congratulations to the following individuals for their significant accomplishments.

SFC Promotion List

"Well earned!"

SSG(P) Marlow
SSG(P) Weaver
SSG(P) Estabrook
SSG(P) Geck

PROMOTIONS

SSG Jones, E.
SGT Saunders
SGT Mata
SGT Morrissey
SPC Ritley
SPC Cole
SPC Maddy
SPC Stepenanko
SPC Tufts
SPC Loyd
SPC Medrano

PFC Feickert
PFC Occhoa
PFC James
PFC Stover
PFC Buccelato
SPC Edelstein
SPC Kiddy
SPC Larson

SCHOOLS

1SG COURSE

1SG Levis
"Commandants List"

PLDC GRAD(s)

SGT Mata
"Leadership award"

SGT Morrissey
"Commandant's List!"

AIRBORNE

SSG Arroyo

COMBATIVES

SSG Thompson
SSG Herbst

REENLISTMENTS

May: SPC Loyd
SPC Solivon
SPC Cole
June: SSG Boatwright
July: SGT Occhino
Aug: SGT(P) Bautista
SPC Sigarin

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

JULY:
PFC Gano

AUGUST:
SPC Romero

Echo Battery cont.

GAINS & LOSSES:

GAINS:

SSG and Danielle Ferguson:
Joshua Jr. 7 June 03

SSG and Mina Dean:
Sakura 23 May 03

SGT Saunders and Christina Squires
Alexis 7 Jul 03

SPC and Tammy Flores
Dante 13 July 03

SPC and Jessica Gazso
Kathryn 15 July

SGT(P) and Lagretta West
River 15 Jul 03

SSG and Ardonna Thompson
Braeden 26 Aug 03

Airborne Welcome!!!:

SFC Nixon 13B4P “Smoke”
SSG(P) Geck 13D3P
PVT Garcia 13B1P

LOSSES:

Fare well, best wishes and good luck to the following Paratroopers!

1LT(P) Childers (Fort Sill)
SSG Boatwright (Fort Carson)
SGT Hartsfield (Fort Bragg)
SPC Fodge (Fort Sill)
SPC Gutierrez (Fort Sill)
SPC Stiver (ETS)
SPC Lloyd (ETS)

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTMEBER:

16th: Pre-Deployment Brief (7 PM Post Theater)

OCTOBER:

4-12: Block Leave!!!

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of The Eagle Update...or if we missed anything, please contact Krista Morgan @ 428-1022 or Caren Levis @ 428-4520

Chaplain's Corner



Greetings to each Geronimo family during these busy and challenging days. As we all make necessary preparations and adjustments for the upcoming deployment, I'm certain that each of you have experienced a variety of emotions and stresses whether this is your first major deployment or one of several.

For those spouses that attended, I hope the Reunion Seminar was helpful and resourceful. For those of you that didn't, I want to briefly revisit two key points that might help make the remaining time with your spouse more meaningful.

MILESTONES. Milestones are created when we share a common and positive experience or event. If I say graduation, most of you can probably recall graduating from high school or basic training, and that event marked great accomplishment and happiness in your life. Over the Labor Day weekend our family spent two nights at a cabin on the Kenai Lake. Our intent was to spend intentional time together in such a way that we all have a significant memory to focus on during times of separation. During our deployment, my wife will be able to talk about the weekend at the cabin on the Kenai and my children will hopefully be able to recall positive memories and experiences from our time together there. These milestones as I like to call them, can be planned, as was our trip to the cabin, or they can be unplanned and spontaneous.

Whichever way you create milestones, be sure to recognize and

talk about them, especially if you have children. Let me explain further, our memories of loved ones are normally set in the context of a place or event. When I think about my wife and children I normally place them within the memory of a place or an event as opposed to just picturing their faces in my mind. For example, before deploying to Fort Knox, my wife and I had dinner at a restaurant in Anchorage that overlooked the Cook Inlet. While intentionally romantic, the memory of sitting in that restaurant for over two hours unintentionally became a milestone that I carried in my mind for the duration of the summer at Fort Knox. In like manner, the experiences that you and your spouse share, with each other and your children if you have them, will be the milestone memories that help you survive the six-month separation.

THE SPIRITUAL DYNAMIC. We are all at different points on our spiritual journey, but especially for married couples, this journey is something that can be shared and can contribute greatly to the overall stability of your marriage. Attending religious services as a couple or family, having a time of family devotion, and praying together, are all things that not only bring our faith into focus but enhance our relationships as well. These elements of our spiritual lives can easily become positive milestones as well. I realize that some are more spiritually minded than others, but I also realize that many people look to the spiritual dynamic when faced with the

hardship associated with a major deployment.

And even while deployed, the faith that you share can be the spiritual glue that helps hold a marriage together during extended separation. As an example of this concept, my wife and I plan to do an extended Bible study together during the deployment to help us maintain a spiritual bond. We will obviously be praying for each other as well, but in addition, we will both journal of our progress in our study and share those journals with each other at certain points along the way. I implore each of you to consider the spiritual dynamic as a necessary element to your personal and married life. You'll be amazed at the difference.

As I close, know that my prayers are with each of you that prepare for this deployment, and for those that remain here at Fort Richardson—you have your work cut out for you as well! I am honored to serve and be deploying with the finest soldiers and paratroopers and am committed, with God's help, to providing each of you the best religious and spiritual support that you deserve.

For God & Country,
Chaplain James B. Lee